MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PLOCKTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD IN PLOCKTON VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 28 MAY, 2012 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT: C.M..MacRae (Chair) J. Storie

J. Sanderson (Vice Chair) G. James (Sec/Treas)
M. Jones Cllr. A. Sinclair

M. MacKenzie C. Will (Crofters' Rep)

I. Matheson

6 Residents

APOLOGIES were received from J. MacKenna and to Const. Brian Harper whilst, having arrived to attend the meeting, had had to leave for work reasons.

The Chairman opened the meeting by congratulating Biz Campbell, Audrey Sinclair, Richard Greene and Ian Cockburn, the newly elected Highland Councillors for the area.

- 1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman outlined a few of the past year's problems and successes as follows -
 - The ongoing problems relating to the Burnside development are still being progressed.
 - Whilst welcoming recent improvements made by the Roads Dept., there still remain many untreated problems which are constantly being followed up.
 - There are still two properties which have sewage outfalls into the loch, one of which will shortly be dealt with, the other still to be confirmed.
 - Plans for a Plockton play area are being progressed, and it is very much hoped this will be successfully completed.
 - Many thanks to Harbours CIC for agreeing to take over and maintain the car park toilet facility, which is due to re-open very shortly.
 - Very satisfactory progress has been made regarding the problems associated with Plockton railway station and High School pupils.
 - Despite the CC's many objections to the lowering of the levels at Loch Lundie, this work has been carried out by Scottish Water.
 - Many thanks are expressed to Lynne Metcalfe for her excellent work in keeping the village tidy and to the Harbours CIC for their financial contribution towards this very beneficial work.

- Following several representations, the HC Hearing Support Scheme is now available in Dornie on advertised dates.
- The withdrawal of the skip service remains a source of great concern and it is hoped that the possibility of 6 skips a year could be re-considered.

The Chairman finally wished to thank all the members of the CC and the Secretary for their support, and also to the two Highland Councillors and members of the Police for their regular attendances at meetings.

2. TREASURER'S REPORT – The Financial Statements for the Treasurer's. Fireworks and Special Projects Accounts were presented to the meeting, and proposed and seconded by M. MacKenzie and I. Matheson, respectively.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman – C.M. MacRae Proposed by I.Matheson, Seconded by J.Sanderson

Vice Chairs – There were 4 proposals and following a ballot, J. MacKenna (Finance) and J. Sanderson (Administration) were re-elected.

Gill James, as previously agreed, would continue in Secretary/Treasurer role.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last Meeting were proposed and seconded by M. Jones and J. Sanderson, respectively..

- a) Plockton Play Area A Pre-Planning Application had been made and a reply awaited.. it was noted that any plans submitted should be done so under the auspices of the CC as this would reduce the cost of such applications.
- b) Roads Department -

Burnside Housing Development – The furthering of the road safety issues was of utmost importance and to this end it was hoped to acquire funding from Safer Routes to School.. The matter had been raised at the High School Parent Council meeting when it was agreed that this needed to be dealt with but that this problem was not solely a school matter but involved all ages. Gordon MacDonald, TECS, suggested that the CC should approach Ross Bartlett, Road Safety and Safer Routes to School Officer, with a view to progressing this application. This course of action was agreed by the CC, and that the application should be made in conjunction with Gordon MacDonald, TECS, to cover all aspects.

Approaches had been made to Mark Crowe, TECS, re the condition of Harbour St. and Station Road, the latter still being neglected on the grounds that it is an unadopted road. Cllr. Sinclair agreed to follow up this matter.

The Duirinish sign had still not been put in place.

The rapidly deteriorating state of the Duirinish/Balmacara road was in urgent need of attention.

- c) Loch Lundie The Scottish Water work having been completed, notification of the proposed sale was awaited.
- d) Plockton Public Toilets Plockton Harbours CIC reported that this work was now nearing completion and the toilets would be re-opened shortly. This news was welcomed by the CC members.
- e) Village Clean-Up Many thanks were expressed to all those involved in the clean-up, with special appreciation to the Primary School.
- f) Police Matters An unacceptable incident of paint being streaked across a car in Harbour St. had been reported to the Chairman. As Const Harpe had had to leave the meeting this could not be discussed with him.
- g) Plockton Railway Station Following complaints from the owners of "Off the Rails" holiday property on the Station about the behaviour/vandalism by pupils, a meeting was held at Plockton High School on 22 May, and attended by the Rector, PC Matt O'Neill (British Transport Police). John Yellowlees (Scotrail), C.M. MacRae (CC Chair), Jane MacKenzie (Off the Rails), the Deputy Rector, Iain Begg (Friends of the Kyle Line), and R. Macrae (Kyle Police).

This proved a very fruitful meeting and as a result the High School have agreed to "adopt" the Station, any funding needed being available from Scotrail. PC O'Neill will be speaking to the pupils to explain exactly what is required and a sub-Committee will be formed, the Rector having agreed to progress this.

- Unfortunately a request by the CC Chair to have a cover erected over the station seat was turned down, but it is hoped that this will in time be put in place.
- h) Funding Opportunities for Coastal Communities Harbours CIC have completed an initial application form
- i) Abandoned Cars at Ceann an Uib No progress has yet been made to have the 5 abandoned cars removed. It is hoped this will be resolved, but if no action is taken the Police will need to be informed.

j) Network Rail Fencing at Duirinish – This has still not been replaced, but PC
 Matt O'Neill, British Transport Police is progressing the matter.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

a) A letter had been received from Brian and Sheila Harvey, 10 Harbour St. regarding the CC's proposed upgrading of the path between nos.10 and 11 Harbour St. expressing their concern about the plan to erect stone steps up to the Brae road and their reservations as to the possible adverse effect on the area.

With regard to the upgrading of the path the CC's main concern was to ensure the path remained open, safe underfoot and easily accessible, the intention also being that the Village Officer would cut back the overhanging shrubbery.

As a result of a discussion it was agreed the path should remain without steps and Brian Harvey kindly offered to keep it clear and accessible recognising it as a public right of way. Thanks for this offer were recorded.

- b) Andy Will expressed his concern regarding the HC street cleaning service, highlighting the fact that following the gutters being cleared a considerable amount of the waste material was left in the centre of the road. It was agreed the Chairman would speak to TEC Services regarding the possibility of this problem being eradicated.
- c) A request had been received from Auchtertyre and Loch Duich Schools Mini Olympics Committee requesting help for funding medals, etc. for this event, and it was agreed to donate £50 to the project.

6. AOB

- a) The ongoing problem of the non-provision of a septic tank on a property on Rhu remains of great concern, and it was agreed a final (third) letter would be sent to the owner of the property before further action, possibly with SEPA, was taken. Chairman to action.
- b) A survey would be made regarding the replacement and repairing of village seats and tables and followed up.
- c) Local concern about the re-siting of a substantially-sized fish farm at Airidrishaig was discussed and the effect it would have on the fishing and sailing communities. As there was no knowledge of any Planning Applications it was agreed to investigate where these plans had been agreed. The Chairman and Cllr. Sinclair agreed to follow up this matter.

d) No official village Diamond Jubilee celebration had been arranged but there were local parties taking place. Jan Storie suggested that where any such future events concerned it would be a good idea to place the notice on the Village Notice Boards to identify possible interest.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Community Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 2 July, 2012, at 7.30 pm in Plockton Village Hall.